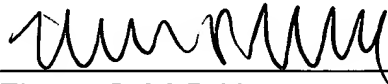


Applicants elect Group I consisting of Claims 1-11 with traverse and respectfully request that the application be examined on the merits. Applicants believe that it would not create an undue burden on the Examiner to conduct a search encompassing all of the claims. Further, Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to further prosecute non-elected groups.

Should any questions arise or if Applicants or Applicants' attorney can facilitate the examination of this application, it is respectfully requested that the PTO contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas P. McBride', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas P. McBride
Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63198

Reg. No. 32,706
636-737-7685 phone
636-737-6047 fax
October ____, 2001